

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 45 and 48 so that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-34 (cancelled).

35. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48 wherein said first width is from about 0.25 to about 1.0 inches; and said second width is from greater than about 0.25 to about 1.5 inches.

36. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein the predetermined deflection of said side edges biases said absorbent pad into an upwardly convex form, closely fitting the body.

37. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein said absorbent is longitudinally extending and has opposite longitudinal side edges and the deflectable side edges of the absorbent pad normally extend generally laterally with respect to said absorbent and, during use, the anchoring of said garment attachment panel configures said sanitary napkin so that each side edge of said crotch portion of said undergarment is supported approximately no higher than a side edge of said absorbent.

38. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein the anchoring of said garment attachment panel configures said sanitary napkin so that each side edge of said crotch portion of said undergarment is supported approximately beneath a side edge of said absorbent and said absorbent is free to conform to the body of the user.

39. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein said fixed portions of said garment attachment panels are disposed so that the right side and the left side of said crotch portion of said undergarment are each restrained adjacent to a side edge of said absorbent pad and prevented from overlaying said absorbent pad.

40. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein said side edges of said absorbent pad have a lateral periphery and said absorbent has a longitudinally extending lateral side contiguous with said side edge and said garment attachment panels have an inner attachment lateral limit from which said free portion of said garment attachment panel diverges and said inner lateral limit is disposed between said lateral side of said absorbent and said lateral periphery of said side edge of said absorbent pad.

41. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein said cover and said baffle extend laterally beyond said absorbent to define said side edges and wherein said garment attachment panels are secured to said baffle outwardly of said absorbent.

42. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein said cover and said baffle are bonded together to form an edge seal.

43. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48, wherein at least one of said cover and said baffle extend laterally beyond said absorbent to define said side edges.

44. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 42, wherein said garment attachment panels are attached to the side of said edge seal on which the baffle is located.

45. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin for mounting onto the bodyside of a crotch portion of an undergarment, and, during use, absorbing bodily excretions, comprising:

an elongated absorbent pad having a longitudinal axis, a longitudinally extending central portion and opposite longitudinal side edges, said side edges being deflectable with respect to said central portion, and including an absorbent contained between a bodyside, liquid-permeable cover and a garment side, liquid-impermeable baffle; and

first and second opposite garment attachment panels, extending downward and inward from an underside of said absorbent pad adjacent to said side edges, said garment attachment panels being anchorable under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said anchoring establishing a downward pull on said side edges and preventing said side edges from folding in toward said absorbent pad; and

wherein said garment attachment panels include a fixed portion attached to the underside of said absorbent pad toward said side edge and a free portion diverging from the underside of said absorbent pad for, during use, extending under said crotch portion of said undergarment, wherein a garment attachment point is defined where said fixed and said free portions meet each other; and

including co-acting fastener elements, one on each of said garment attachment panels, said co-acting fastener elements which are mated to one another when the article is fastened under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said co-acting fastener elements anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels so as to establish a predetermined deflection of said side edges and to facilitate accurate mounting of said sanitary napkin on said undergarment, and

wherein the opposite longitudinal side edges of the elongated absorbent pad are widened laterally in at least a longitudinally central portion of their length to define a pair of first side panels, each first side panel extending laterally beyond the absorbent sufficiently that, during use, the first side panels extend beyond and depend below the side edges of the crotch portion of the undergarment.

46. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 45, wherein each of the first side panels at least partially overlays one of the garment attachment panels, and each of the first side panels has a greater longitudinal extent than the garment attachment panel that it overlays.

47. (previously presented) The sanitary napkin of claim 48 wherein one of said co-acting fastener elements is disposed on a bodyside surface of one of said garment attachment panels and another of said co-acting fastener elements is disposed on a garment side surface of the other of said garment attachment panels.

48. (currently amended) A sanitary napkin for mounting onto the bodyside of a crotch portion of an undergarment, and, during use, absorbing bodily excretions, comprising:

an elongated absorbent pad having a longitudinal axis, a longitudinally extending central portion and opposite longitudinal side edges, said side edges being deflectable with respect to

said central portion, and including an absorbent contained between a bodyside, liquid-permeable cover and a garment side, liquid-impermeable baffle; and

first and second opposite garment attachment panels, extending downward and inward from an underside of said absorbent pad adjacent to said side edges, said garment attachment panels being anchorable under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said anchoring establishing a downward pull on said side edges and preventing said side edges from folding in toward said absorbent pad; and

wherein said garment attachment panels include a fixed portion attached to the underside of said absorbent pad toward said side edge and a free portion diverging from the underside of said absorbent pad for, during use, extending under said crotch portion of said undergarment, wherein a garment attachment point is defined where said fixed and said free portions meet each other; and

including co-acting fastener elements, one on each of said garment attachment panels, said co-acting fastener elements being mated to one another when the article is fastened under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said co-acting fastener elements anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels so as to establish a predetermined deflection of said side edges and to facilitate accurate mounting of said sanitary napkin on said undergarment, and

wherein said co-acting fastener elements being configured, on one of said garment attachment panels, in a first width, and on the other of said garment attachment panels in a second width, wherein said second width is greater than said first width.

Claims 49-51 (Cancelled).